

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-12 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08 L-03

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SS-15 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01

AF-10 ARA-11 NEA-10 RSR-01 /220 W

----- 006734

R 081730 Z MAY 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5168

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 EC BRUSSELS 2540

E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: TRDR, EC

SUBJ: VISIT TO BRUSSELS OF JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER OHIRA

1. SUMMARY: DURING A ONE- DAY TRIP TO BRUSSELS, FOREIGN
MINISTEROHIRA CONCENTRATED ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN
DISCUSSIONS WITH BELGIAN AND EC OFFICIALS. NO PROGRESS
WAS MADE ON THE CURRENT JAPANESE/ BENELUX NEGOTIATIONS
ON ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS. THE EC COMMISSION AND JAPAN
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 02540 01 OF 02 081815 Z

DECIDED TO INAUGURATE THEIR OWN VERSION OF THE SOAMES/
CASEY DISCUSSIONS BUT WITHOUT A SPECIFIC FUTURE TIME-
TABLE. BOTH SIDES DECIDED TO SUBSUME THE SEARCH FOR A
JAPANESE/ EC TRADE AGREEMENT AND SAFEGUARD CLAUSE INTO
THE FALL MULTINATIONAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. AN OFFICIAL OF THE JAPANESE DELEGATION TO THE EC
HAS FURNISHED THE MISSION THE FOLLOWING HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
VISIT TO BRUSSELS ON MAY 4, 1973, BY MASAYOSHI OHIRA,
JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER:

3. WITH BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLAND, OHIRA
STRESSED, AS HE DID IN LATER INTERVIEWS, CHANGES IN
JAPANESE TRADE AND ECONOMIC POLICY. HE SAID THAT JAPAN
IS MOVING FROM A PRODUCTION ORIENTED TO A WELFARE- ORIENTED
ECONOMY AND THAT IN TRADE IT IS CHANGING FROM AN EXPORT
TO AN IMPORT EMPHASIS. BOTH FOREIGN MINISTERS
FRUITLESSLY SUGGESTED THAT THEY OTHER MAKE COMPROMISES TO
SETTLE IN AN AMIABLE WAY THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS ON
BENELUX IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON JAPANESE ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS.
THEY SIGNED A TEN- YEAR CULTURAL AGREEMENT.

4. IN THE AFTERNOON OHIRA SPOKE SEPARATELY WITH EC
COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI AND VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES.
THE DISCUSSION WITH ORTOLI WAS RATHER GENERAL AND
PHILOSOPHICAL, WITH ORTOLI DRAWING PARALLELS BETWEEN
THE EC AND JAPAN: BOTH ARE SMALL, CROWDED LANDS,
HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON TRADE. OHIRA STATED THAT UP UNTIL
NOW JAPAN HAS ADOPTED A LOW POSTURE IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS, CONCENTRATING ON HOW TO REACT TO MOVES BY THE
UNITED STATES AND EUROPE. THIS CAN NO LONGER CONTINUE.
JAPAN MUST BEGIN TO THINK ABOUT THE REACTION OF OTHERS
TO JAPAN'S ACTIONS. BOTH MEN AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE
HARMFUL SHOULD ANY TWO OF THE THREE GREAT MARKET ECONOMIES
(EC, JAPAN AND US) TRY TO COMBINE AGAINST THE OTHER ON
TRADE ISSUES OR IN THE COMING TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

5. SOME POINTS IN THE DISCUSSIONS WITH SOAMES WERE
MORE SPECIFIC. SOAMES ENCOURAGED JAPAN TO ASSUME MORE
RESPONSIBILITY IN THE WORLD AND SAID THAT THE EC WAS
TRYING TO DO THIS. HE COMPLIMENTED JAPAN ON ITS RECENT
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LIBERALIZATIONS, BUT STATED THERE ARE SHORT- RUN PROBLEMS
BETWEEN THE TWO POWERS, PARTICULARLY THE \$1 BILLION EC
TRADE DEFICIT WITH JAPAN. HE ASKED WHEN THIS WOULD BE
CORRECTED. SOAMES SAID THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO EXPORT
TO JAPAN. OHIRA ASKED FOR SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS ON
JAPANESE PRODUCTS AND SAID THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WOULD
PURSUE THEM.

6. SOEAMES COMPLAINED ABOUT JAPANESE ORDERLY MARKETING AND VOLUNTARY EXPORT RESTRAINT MEASURES. HE SAID THAT THESE WERE EITHER UNILATERAL OR DECIDED BETWEEN JAPAN AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES BUT WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION DISLIKES ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN JAPAN AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES.(OUR SOURCE STATED THAT THE COMMISSION HAS DRAGGED ITS HEELS ABOUT APPROVING AN APRIL 1 AGREEMENT BETWEEN JAPAN AND FRANCE ON ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS AND DOES NOT SEEM SYMPATHETIC WITH THE CURRENT BENELUX/ JAPANESE DISCUSSIONS ON THAT SAME PRODUCT. OUR SOURCE ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE EC IS QUITE FRUSTRATING FOR JAPAN ON JUST THIS POINT. THE COMMISSION AND SOME STATES (GERMANY) WANT THE COMMISSION TO BE EUROPE' S VOICE FOR JAPAN, BUT OTHER STATES (FRANCE) INSIST THAT THE CONVERSATIONS BE WITH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES. OHIRA STATED THAT JAPAN WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HEAR THE VIEWS OF THE COMMISSION, BUT IT DOES NOT WISH TO NEGOTIATE QUOTAS.

7. THE TWO MEN AGREED THAT THE UK AND JAPAN HAVE A LESS SATISFACTORY MEANS OF TALKING THAN EITHER THE EC AND THE US OR JAPAN AND THE US. THEY AGREED ON THE NEED FOR A CONSTANT EC/ JAPANESE DIALOGUE ON MANY LEVELS. THOUGH NOT DECIDING UPON A SPECIFIC FUTURE FORMULA OR TIMETABLE, THEY DID PLAN FOR A ROUND OF FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. JAPAN WILL SEND A DELEGATION TO BRUSSELS IN JUNE UNDER VICE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS TSURUMI FOR TWO DAYS OF TALKS.

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R 081730 Z MAY 73
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 EC BRUSSELS 2540

8. IN THE DISCUSSION OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT USING THE WORD, SOAMES STRESSED THE NEED FOR SOME FORM OF TARIFF HARMONIZATION AND BRINGING TOGETHER OF TARIFF LEVELS. (THE JAPANESE EVIDENTLY DID NOT PICK THIS UP AS ANY SORT OF REQUEST ON THEM FOR UNILATERAL TARIFF CONCESSIONS, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEIR TARIFF LEVELS ARE HIGHER THAN THE COMMUNITY' S.) ON AGRICULTURAL TRADE SOAMES PERSONALLY BELIEVED THE EC SHOULD MAKE SOME CONCESSIONS. HE MENTIONED CODES OF GOOD CONDUCT
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AND INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY AGREEMENTS WHERE LDC' S WERE INVOLVED (CEREALS AND SUGAR).

9. ON SAFEGUARDS SOAMES STATED THAT THE COMMUNITY HAS THREE SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT: (A) IT WANTS TO SHARPEN UP ARTICLE XIX OF THE GATT, " ALLOWING APPLICATION IN A MORE DIRECT AND CONCENTRATED FASHION". (THE JAPANESE REALIZE THIS MEANS DISCRIMINATORY APPLICATIONS.); (B) IT WANTS STRICT CRITERIA, AND (C) IT SEEKS SOME MEANS OF SECURING IMPARTIAL JUDGMENTS ON CASES. DURING THE DISCUSSION THERE WAS NO MENTION OF AN EC/ JAPANESE BILATERAL SAFEGUARD. THE MEN AGREED THAT THEY WOULD NO LONGER PURSUE A POSSIBLE JAPANESE/ EC TRADE AGREEMENT, BUT THEY WOULD SUBSUME THIS NEGOTIATION IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

10. OHIRA STATED THAT JAPAN WAS PREPARED TO TAKE A BIG STEP IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, AND IT DID NOT EXCLUDE ZERO DUTIES. JAPAN HAS NOT DECIDED ON HARMONIZATION. JAPAN WOULD BE READY TO NEGOTIATE ON NTBS, BUT IN THE KENNEDY ROUND THIS HAD BEEN HARD BECAUSE NEITHER THE US NOR EC NEGOTIATORS HAD THE AUTHORITY TO TACKLE THIS SUBJECT. OHIRA STATED " PLAINLY" THAT JAPAN WAS OPPOSED TO MEDITERRANEAN AND REVERSE PREFERENCES, BUT SAID IT DOES NOT WISH TO APPROACH THE PROBLEM

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11. NEITHER SIDE MENTIONED THE CURRENT GATT ARTICLE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS. GREENWALD

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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Subject: VISIT TO BRUSSELS OF JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER OHIRA
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To: BONN
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Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005